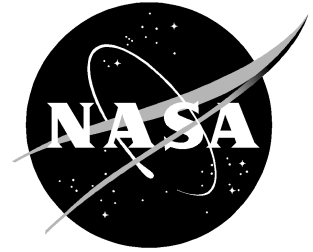


NewsRelease



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NOTE TO EDITORS: REL-04-029

NASA UPDATES MEDIA ON INITIAL ENGINEERING AND SAFETY ASSESSMENTS

The NASA Engineering and Safety Center (NESC), created to serve as an independent technical resource for the agency, will be making its first report to NASA leadership on May 12.

The leadership briefing, itself, will be closed to the public, but a media roundtable will be conducted afterward from 1:45-2:30 p.m. EDT, originating from NASA Headquarters. The interviewee will be Ralph Roe, NESC Director.

Of prime interest will be the results of the NESC's first four assessments, called "Pathfinder" studies, announced in November 2003 shortly after the official kickoff of the NESC. Study topics were related to the Cloud-Aerosol LIDAR and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO) spacecraft, the Hyper-X (X-43A) Program, the Space Shuttle orbiter rudder/speed brake system, and the Mars Exploration Rovers.

Information about the NESC is available on the NESC web site at the address below, including a bio of Ralph Roe. Lessons learned and related information from the four Pathfinder studies will be posted to the site no later than 10 a.m., May 12. A link will take reporters to a video clip and publication quality images.

<http://nesc.nasa.gov/>

Media representatives who want to monitor the media roundtable may use NASA's "monitor only" phone lines: 321-867-1220/1240/1260.

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